

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 260838
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S:PTARNOFF

APPROVED BY:S/S:PTARNOFF

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O 011444Z NOV 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 260838

NODIS

CHEROKEE, WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 10778 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV 1

QUOTE: S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 10778

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, PK, US

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING: COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH
GENERAL ZIA, OCTOBER 29

REF: ISLAMABAD 10710

1. AS PROMISED REFTTEL, THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE
OFFERED ON MY CONVERSATION WITH GEN. ZIA ON REPROCESSING.

(A) IF WE OR WASHINGTON HAD ANY LINGERING HOPES THAT WE
COULD PERSUADE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION TO BACK OFF

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REPROCESSING ISSUE, THE HARD LINE TAKEN BY ZIA AND HIS MOST
SENIOR CIVILIAN ADVISERS SHOULD END THEM. I THINK THERE
ARE TWO REASONS FOR ZIA'S INFLEXIBILITY. THE FIRST IS
THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTY OF CHANGING PAST
POLICIES. BUT SECONDLY, GEN. ZIA AND HIS ADVISERS SHARE THE NEARLY
UNANIMOUS OPINION HERE THAT REPROCESSING OFFERS THE
PROSPECT OF A FUNDAMENTAL GAIN IN PAKISTAN'S

SEARCH FOR SECURITY VIS-A-VIS INDIA. THIS HAS BECOME AN ACCEPTED ARTICLE OF FAITH WHICH WILL NOT BE SHAKEN BY LOGICAL ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY.

(B) WE WILL NOT MOVE THE GOP ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE EITHER BY PRESSURE OR INDUCEMENT, AND IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN OBTAINING CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT, IT WILL HAVE TO BE THROUGH THE FRENCH. I BELIEVE THAT A FUTURE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT HERE WILL PROVE AS INTRACTABLE AS THE PRESENT ONE.

(C) IN DEALING WITH THE FRENCH, I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO HAMMER HOME OUR CONVICTION THAT PAKISTAN'S PURPOSE IN ACQUIRING REPROCESSING IS TO OBTAIN A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL LEADERS AND NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS OFTEN ADDRESS THE REPROCESSING PLANT IN TERMS OF PAKISTAN'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE DEPT. POSTED ON THESE STATEMENTS FOR WHATEVER USE CAN BE MADE OF THEM.

(D) CANCELLATION BY THE FRENCH WILL BE A SHARP BLOW TO PAKISTAN'S SELF-ESTEEM AND TO ITS SENSE OF SECURITY. WHILE THERE WILL BE RESENTMENT AGAINST THE FRENCH, THE U.S. WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF WIDESPREAD POPULAR WRATH AND OFFICIAL DISMAY. WE BELIEVE IT IS PREFERABLE TO GO THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD WHILE THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IS IN POWER, RATHER THAN EXPERIENCING IT WITH A NEW ELECTED GOVERNMENT A YEAR HENCE. A NEW GOVERNMENT WITH NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REPROCESSING
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ISSUE WOULD START OFF WITH A CLEANER SLATE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE US AND WE WOULD HAVE FRESH OPPORTUNITIES TO REBUILD OUR RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE THIS TIMING ASPECT CAN BE BORNE IN MIND IN URGING THE FRENCH TOWARDS SETTLEMENT OF THIS PROBLEM.

2. IN OUR NEXT APPROACH TO THE FRENCH, I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BRIEF THE GOF ON MY CONVERSATION WITH ZIA, EMPHASIZING OUR CONCLUSIONS THAT THE GOP IS UNLIKELY TO COOPERATE VOLUNTARILY IN TERMINATING THE REPROCESSING CONTRACT AND THAT THE GOI PURPOSE, SHARED BY ZIA, CONTINUES TO BE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES OPTION.

3. RECOMMEND THIS BE REPEATED TO PARIS.

HUMMEL

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 11-1-77, MEETING REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CONTRACTS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE260838
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:PTARNOFF
Enclosure: FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770007-0153
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711108/aaaadpfe.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e84c350f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 10710
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 413586
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPROCESSING: COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL ZIA, OCTOBER 29
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, PK, US
To: PARIS WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e84c350f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009